

THREE DOLLAR WIVES.

Special Correspondence.

KAMPALA, Uganda April 10.—Do you want a cheap wife? You can get one here in Uganda for \$3 "per."

The actual price is \$3.33, and there are thousands now on the market for just that much and no more. The rate has been fixed by the lukiko, or the native royal council, which governs this country under the king, and the man who bids higher will be fined. At the same time the parents who demand more are liable to a fine equal to the price of their daughter. So you see every one has a fair show. I have met crowds of these \$3 maidens since I came into Uganda, and I am told there are at least 100,000 now ready for marriage. According to the new laws, a girl should be at least 17 before she is wedded, and as there are 2,000,000 souls in Uganda, a fresh crop comes on every year.

HOW THE GIRLS LOOK.

But before I go further, let me tell you how these Uganda girls look. The country swarms with them and I have taken snapshots of a dozen while walking over the hills. They represent girls of all ages from little tots of eight, as naked as the day they were born, save for a cord about the waist as big as my thumb, to full grown, well-developed maidens of 16, clad in bark garments of a brick-dust hue. All have beautiful forms. The average young woman is straighter than the Venus de Medici, and she carries herself like a queen. She is an African queen, however, and that allied to the best negro type. Take for instance one whom I sized up today. I never go traveling without a tape-line in my pocket, and I can give you her measurements. She was just five feet one inch in height, 32 inches across the chest under the arms and 35 including the bark cloth which covered her bust. I did not take the line around her waist, but it was longer by far than that of our average woman of the same age, coming perhaps from the extraordinary amount of bananas upon which these people feed. This girl was of a rich mahogany brown and her skin shone as though it were oiled. She was clad in bark cloth from arm pits to ankles and her garments consisted of a bark blanket, wrapped tightly about her body under the arms and tied by a cord at the waist. This cord was of bark, and the extra folds of the blanket were gathered into it so that they fell over in front. The girl's neck and shoulders were as smooth as though cut out by a sculptor, and she had beautiful arms. She had 32 teeth, and they were sound, firm and as white as ivory. I cannot describe her hair, for her scalp was shaved close to the skin and she had evidently just left the barber. The shaving made her little brown ears especially prominent. Other maidens whom I have seen have hair decidedly woolly, and I doubt not this girl's is the same when grown out. Through my guide, Epifras, or Sassafras, as I call him, I discovered her age. She is just 17, and I understand, she is about to be married.

LOVE IN UGANDA.

The girl told us that her prospective husband was just 20. She simpered

a little in talking of him and was evidently proud of the fact of her approaching wedding. Sassafras says it is really a love match and that such matches are common in Uganda. These people are the most civilized of the natives of the central parts of this continent. They are polite and full of good nature. In many respects they remind me of the Japanese.

Girls and boys go around hand in hand, and there seems to be considerable affection between the young men and young women. It used to be that a man could have as many wives as he pleased. King Mutesa of a woman in his harem. After the country was converted to Christianity, slavery was practically abolished, and now the rule of one wife prevails, except among the Mohammedan believers, who are each allowed to have four.

There is no seclusion of women in this part of Africa, and the boys and girls play together. If two fall in love, the girl takes the young man and introduces him to her father and mother. They examine him carefully, and if they like him consent to the marriage. The price is then paid, and the man gets his girl. The marriage takes place in church, and after that the two go to themselves. All marriages are registered, and if there is any dispute between the two this registration settles the matter. Divorces are not infrequent and the common complaint of a woman in such affairs is that her husband's love has cooled or that he is making goo-goo eyes at some other woman.

There is considerable complaint throughout the country of the rate for wives. Parents say that it is not just that a man should pay as much for an ugly girl as for a beautiful one, and that the questions of age, intelligence and family ought to be worth consideration. The groom's say the same. This was different in the past, and even now I believe a chief pays more for his wife than a common man and that according to his rank. If he is of the lowest order, the sum is \$5, if of the second grade about \$10, and of the highest of all he is expected to give a little over \$13 and a live cow.

THE POOR UGANDA MOTHER-IN-LAW.

Among the queer customs are those regarding mothers-in-law. The wife's mother seems to be more unpopular here than at home, and she has no rights that her son-in-law is bound to respect. She cannot speak to her daughter's husband without his first asking to her, and if she should meet him accidentally she must turn aside and cover her head. In case she has not enough clothes on at that time for the purpose she may sit down by the side of the road and cover her eyes and face with her hands until he passes. The wife's mother dare not enter her daughter's house without a special invitation, and she is not supposed to stay long when she comes. If she wants to see her daughter she sneaks up to within 50 feet of the house and waits until the girl happens to come outside. The two then have their talk together, and if the mother-in-law wants to greet her son-in-law—still inside the hut—she may yell out in the native language, "How are you?" The man, if he is in a good humor, may respond with "All right, mamma," but it would be infra dig for him to look out. Sassafras tells me that many of the



A COUNTRY HUT IN UGANDA.

Photographed for the "News" by Frank G. Carpenter.

women I see here who have let their hair grow are widows, and that on this account they have hair. The average married woman shaves frequently, and the heads of the marriageable girls are usually as clean as a billiard ball. A widow to show her grief is not supposed to cut her hair until two months after the death of her husband, and if she is overwhelmed with despair she may let her hair grow for five or six months. I have already written of how the widows of kings are supposed to spend the rest of their lives watching in the tombs of their husbands, and how scores of women are now doing that for some of the passed-away kings of Uganda.

As to the children, I see little black babies everywhere, and there are numerous boys dressed in bark cloth and little girls almost naked. I am told, however, that this is a land of small families. "The average man and his wife do not have as many children as among the rich of Europe and the United States. The woman who bears several children is the exception rather than the rule, and many of the families have none. Indeed, the birth of a second son is always an occasion for pride and rejoicing. The fact is, however, that the father is supposed to be kept up for a month outside the hut. This is a sign that there is joy within and that the couple's friends should come in and drink some banana beer to the health of the new arrival. The mother who has a second son is entitled to a new dress for having brought this honor to the family. This dress is of terra cotta bark cloth, and its ordinary cost is about 32 cents.

If like the looks of these babies. They are bright little brown things, good-natured and full of smiles. The mothers take them to their backs and hang their bark cloth gowns while working in the fields and the little ones bob up and down as mamma wields the hoe.

Sometimes they are tied inside goat skins and thus carried. The men often go along with their babies astride their hips, and I occasionally see one with a pickney riding on his shoulders. They seem fond of their children and proud of them.

UGANDA HOUSES.

These Uganda people live happily. They are always laughing and smiling, and the men and women go along hand in hand. They have comfortable homes from an African standpoint. They live in villages scattered over the country, but each village has its garden about it, in which grow bananas, sweet potatoes and other vegetables. As a rule the banana trees shade the huts, and one often walks quite a distance through a banana plantation before he gets to the house.

The houses are of different sizes. Some, such as those of the chiefs, are of great extent and are most elaborately made. Out in the country they are more like huts, and they look much like little haystacks about 12 feet in diameter and 12 feet in height, except that each has a sort of brim which extends out and shades the door. The huts are made of reeds with thatched roofs, the latter being upheld by poles. Every hut has several rooms, which are divided by walls of matting and bark cloth. Even the poorest house has two apartments, one at the front and the other in the rear. In the rear apartment are bunks around the wall upon which the people sleep. Such huts have but little furniture, two or three stools, a half dozen earthenware pots and some wicker or grass basins constitute an outfit for beginning married life, and if in addition a woman can have a hoe or so and a cutting she is fully ready to assume her part of the contract.

As to food the chief staple is the banana. There are many varieties of these in Uganda, and they are more important to that country than wheat and corn are to ours. The banana, which serves as the chief food, is much longer than any that comes into our markets. It is a sort of plantain. It is eaten green, the fruit being first peeled and then cooked with a little water in an earthenware pot. As it steams away the flesh softens and soon becomes a solid mass of mush. When done it is taken off the fire and turned out upon some fresh banana leaves. These serve as a tablecloth. The family now gathers around and gets ready for the meal. Each first washes his hands and gives them a shake to get off the superfluous water. The father then takes a knife and divides the pile of banana pulp into as many divisions as there are members at the board. In the meantime a bowl of soup or fish gravy has been placed inside the ring. This is used in common. Each person takes up a handful of banana mush and kneads it into a ball just big enough for one bite. He then dips the ball into the soup, and with a wonderful sleight of hand conveys it to his mouth without dropping a bit of the grease. By the time the banana mush is all eaten the soup bowl is empty.

These people also have Indian corn, peas, beans and sweet potatoes. They raise chickens, sheep and goats, and occasionally have meat. They do not seem fond of eggs, and the women are not allowed to eat them after they are married. They are not permitted to eat chicken or mutton, such viands being reserved for the men of the family. They may, however, eat beef or veal.

The Bakanda have fish from Lake Victoria and from their numerous streams. They eat locusts and are especially fond of white ants. The

An Unlimited Number of Uganda Brides For Sale at Fixed Prices.

ants are caught by smoking their hills about nightfall and trapping them as they come out. They are eaten both raw and cooked. I see them for sale in the markets. One can buy a hand-full of 20 for 2 cents, and a great lot for a rupee. The ants are wrapped up in banana leaves when taken away. These people are now making sugar from cane. They are growing tomatoes and 20 different kinds of peas and beans. They use many roots as food, and also a green vegetable much like spinach. I see little nests of tobacco here and there. The soil is as rich as that of Cuba and the plants grow without much cultivation. The tobacco is used for smoking and is consumed by both men and women. They gather coffee from the wild trees and chew the pulp, but so far have not learned to use it as a drink.

A NEW MARKET IN AFRICA.

Since the British have taken possession of Uganda they have introduced many kinds of food which are becoming popular, and they are gradually creating a market here for European goods. Some of the natives are gradually coming into demand. This is, of course, among the wealthier people, and especially among the chiefs who buy the things to serve at their teas or dinner parties. Another article which is becoming common is the umbrella. Both women and men use it, and I often see a crowd of a dozen or so natives going along with umbrellas in their hands.

Within the past few years the missionaries have taught many of the Baganda to write, and a demand for writing paper has been created. The people want cotton goods, and as I have said before, they especially like our American sheeting. Little stores are now springing up in the more thickly populated centers, and there are a score or so of such establishments here and at Entebbe.

A NEW CIVILIZATION.

Indeed, the British are gradually making a new nation of the Baganda. Only a few years ago these people were warring with their neighbors and en-

slaving the tribes about. Mutesa had a large army and his predecessors had many wars. Justice was then practically unknown, and human life was of no account. The people had no incentive to work. They lived upon the bananas which they grew in their gardens, they made their clothes from the bark of the fig tree and their houses came from the cane of the swamps nearby.

To a large extent such conditions prevail today, but the people want bigger houses and better houses. They are beginning to use kerosene, and the huts of the chiefs are lighted by lamps. Some now have little patches of carpet and not a few are buying furniture. Our shoes and stockings are beginning to be worn, and the desire for all foreign things is becoming an incentive to work. So far this movement is slow, and the low wages, amounting to only 4 or 5 cents a day at the best, are not very stimulating. As time goes on this will change and there will come to be a good working population in this rich and fertile country.

FEW CONCESSIONS GIVEN.

So far it has been the government's policy to grant but few concessions for the exploitation of Uganda. The land is held by the natives and also by the English government. Some of the chiefs own large tracts. The native prime minister, for instance, has about 160 square miles of land; he owns 100 head of cattle, and his income is over \$5,000 a year. Other chiefs have smaller tracts, and the king himself has a considerable property. All forests over two miles square are supposed to belong to the English crown. The timber is especially valuable, and the number possibilities are great. At present the British government is planting rubber trees along the principal roads. There are such all the way from Kampala to Entebbe, a distance of 23 miles. The trees are carefully set out and are guarded by fences of wicker cane. Those who work the roads cultivate these trees and they are now growing luxuriantly. They will probably yield a considerable revenue to the government within a few years to come.

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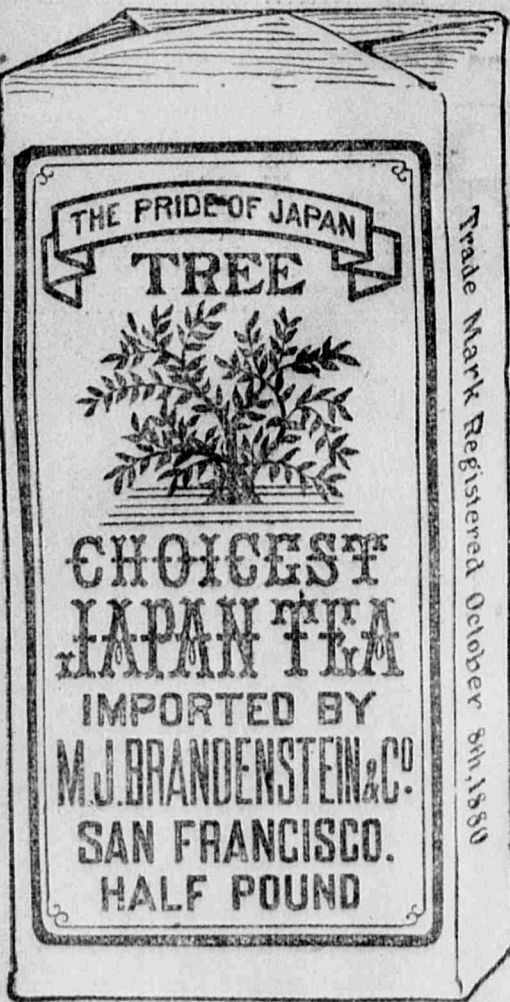
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Common House Fly Man's Deadliest Enemy.

Report Submitted to Governor Hughes by Daniel C. Jackson, Bacteriologist of the Water Bureau, New York, States That 7,650 Deaths Are Caused Annually in That City by That Insect—One Fly on May 1 is Represented by 52,656,000,000 Descendants by July 1.

A STATEMENT to the effect that the creature known as the house fly is the most dangerous insect, or animal for that matter, in existence, would be received with incredulity by the uninitiated, but scientists and bacteriologists, the "men who know," have facts and figures to prove that such an assertion is true. While lions, tigers, reptiles, etc., may slay their thousands annually, the little insect that hums about one's ears and apparently never does more harm than to fall into food or drink and cause a creepy feeling as it crawls over one's skin, slays its tens of thousands. For instance, Daniel C. Jackson, bacteriologist of the water bureau, New York, in a report submitted to Gov. Hughes, states that 7,650 deaths are caused annually in that city by the house fly. Figuring that the population of Gotham is one-twentieth that of the nation, and supposing that the flies of

the metropolis are no more numerous nor deadly than elsewhere, we would have the astounding fact that the deaths each year in the United States attributable to this pest indicated, number 191,250 persons.

From such a showing as this it would seem that all the other animals of the country, wild and domestic, would not in a century make any such showing in the way of taking human life. Talk about the dangers of the jungle, the Lake of the Dismal Swamps, of mountain fastnesses, or the menace of war! Against them all as a destroyer of life, trust the pesky house fly.

And how does the fly get in his deadly work? Not by bite, or sting or any untoward violence. He is just like the scoundrel monger, he kills by that which he carries, with the possible exception that the character assassin often times manufactures his own poison. The fly delights to linger where lurk disease and death, and when satiated carries life-destroying germs to scatter among earth's unsuspecting millions in human form.

PROLIFIC BREEDERS.

Flies are not only effective breeders of disease, but are prolific breeders of their kind, as witness the following figures: Ten days completes a generation of house flies in the summer. The number of eggs laid by each female fly average 120. Thus, under favorable circumstances, the offspring of a single, overwintering house fly may in the course of the summer reach a figure almost beyond belief.

For the purpose of making a conservative calculation as to what the figure might be, let it be assumed that only one-half of a fly's output of eggs hatch out and live to raise families of their own. One fly raises 60 daughters in 10 days, these have each 60, or 3,600 in 10 more days. In 30 days the number has grown to 216,000, and to 12,960,000 in 40 days. Allowing 1,000 flies to the ounce, or 16 to the pound, we find that the total produce of one fly at the end of 40 days would weigh \$10 pounds, or more than five times the weight of a 160-pound man.

APPALLING FIGURES.

No further argument than this should be necessary to demonstrate the importance of endeavoring to exterminate, as far as is possible, the house fly at the very beginning of the fly season. One fly on May 1 is represented by 52,656,000,000 great-great-grandchildren on July 1, providing, of course, that nothing happens to interfere with each succeeding generation's allotted span of life. Each of the fly's six legs has two pads and each of these carries 1,200 hairs. That makes a total of 7,200 hairs, each one of which secretes a sticky fluid.

BACTERIA GALORE.

The sense of smell possessed by a fly is something astounding, and fifth is quickly located by the insect at long distance. Soon the little pest is covered inside and out with disease germs, in some instances as high as 100,000 dangerous bacteria having been found in the mouth and legs of

one fly. Just imagine such a fly going through a pastry containing various kinds of exposed food! No wonder that typhoid fever and other intestinal diseases are so prevalent. Much has been said of the mosquito as a spreader of disease and devastation, but he is scarcely to be considered as compared to the house fly in that regard. The season of the pest fly is short, of scarcely more than three months' duration, and his ravages are the worst when the weather is hottest, but in that time he manages to get in some decidedly deadly work.

The most effective precautions against flies is the screen. No delay should occur in the placing at doors and windows of something to keep out the pests, even though it be only mosquito netting. If the fly or early mosquito is not kept out, the May meets with an untimely end, by starvation, chilling or whatever means of death, just at the very commencement of its career, it will mean so many millions, possibly billions, fewer flies later on in the season. The injunctions to all the householders should be "get the screen habit," and "do it now."

QUIPS.

It is not necessary, because your guest of honor is a chiropodist, to have corned beef for dinner.

The average girl weeps, not because he is good enough for her, but because he is too good for any other girl to get.

The furniture faker can take a brand-new piece of furniture and make it look as if it was 200 years old. So can the furniture faker's little boy.

Manyunk's latest man says he will marry no one but a widow, as he will then be saved the trouble of doing the courting.

If in reply to a toast at the political banquet you lose your head, don't be unhappy, for, if you only stay late enough, you'll be sure to get it back again all right in the morning.

The honest man scorns the thief, the brave man the coward, but no scorn known equals in its depth and strength that which the barber feels for the man who wears a full beard.

The small boy, after a "dash," doesn't look in the glass to see if he is clean. He looks at the towel to see if it is soiled.

TOO LIGHT.

"Booker T. Washington is a wonderful man," said a southerner at the Tuskegee meeting in Carnegie Hall last month. "There is no orator in America to equal him."

"He's full of run, too. Once, when Tuskegee's future looked very dismal, he declared to me that the great school was bound to pull through, that you never could tell from appearances what the future held in store."

"Why," he said, mentioning a famous colored poet, in his boyhood the chap was universally despised, even by his own mother. Even his own mother used to say of him that 'she gussed he was down in the books he gave her to be hanged, and she could never bear dat brat, anyways, 'kase he show dirt so easy.'—Washington Star.

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